

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-01 FEA-01 DODE-00 L-02 SAJ-01

SCI-01 IO-03 EPA-01 CEQ-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 /059 W

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R 201623Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3333

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09787

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GW, WB

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOVIET REACTION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF
FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY IN WEST BERLIN

REF: BONN 9735

1. RELIABLE SOURCE DISCUSSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
FEA IN WEST BERLIN WITH SOVIET POLITICAL COUNSELOR
JUNE 19. LATTER WARNED IN CLEAR TERMS THAT IF THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRESSED AHEAD AND SET UP THE OFFICE
IN BERLIN, THE SOVIETS WOULD CONSIDER THIS A VIOLATION
OF THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT. IN RETALIATION, THE
SOVIET INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NO
DIFFICULTIES ON THE AUTOBAHN (AS OCCURRED IN JANUARY
AND FEBRUARY EARLIER THIS YEAR), BUT THAT THE SOVIETS
AND EAST EUROPEANS WOULD CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE
FRG IN THE AREA OF THE FRG'S FOREIGN REPRESENTATION OF
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WEST BERLIN ABROAD.

2. A SENIOR FRG FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE SAID THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE WAS NOW OF THE VIEW THAT AMBASSADOR FALIN HAD MISREPORTED TO MOSCOW ON THE STRENGTH OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S STAND CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEA IN WEST BERLIN. THE FEELING IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS THAT FALIN, ON THE BASIS OF HIS SEVERAL TALKS WITH FORMER MINISTER BAHR, CONCLUDED THAT THE FRG COULD BE PRESSED TO REVERSE ITS STAND. ONCE IT BECAME CLEAR THAT SUCH A RETREAT WAS POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE, FALIN IS THOUGHT TO HAVE MADE THE MATTER AN ISSUE OF PRINCIPLE SIMPLY TO PROTECT HIS PREVIOUS REPORTING AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. COMMENT: THE SDVIET MOVE ON FOREIGN REPRESENTATION, IF ACCURATE, WOULD REPRESENT A MUCH CLEVERER COUNTER-ATTACK AGAINST THE FEA THAN THE OVERLY OBVIOUS AND HEAVY-HANDED CREATION OF DIFFICULTIES ON THE ACCESS ROUTES FOR FEA EMPLOYEES. IT WILL CERTAINLY BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE FRG (OR THE ALLIES) TO COUNTER. NONE THE LESS, SUCH A SOVIET MOVE WOULD HAVE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS HERE, AND WOULD PROBABLY COMPLICATE ANY PLANS SCHMIDT MAY HAVE FOR VISITING MOSCOW LATER THIS YEAR. END COMMENT.

4. OUR FRG FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE TOLD US THAT THE OUTSTANDING BERLIN ISSUES BETWEEN THE FRG AND USSR WERE SHOWING NO SIGNS OF ANY PROGRESS: IN FACT ON THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE QUESTION, FALIN RECENTLY TOLD THE FOREIGN OFFICE THAT THE SOVIETS NOW CONSIDERED THIS MATTER ONE OF "STATUS" AND HENCE MIGHT REQUIRE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES. THE FRG SIDE REPORTEDLY TOLD FALIN THAT THIS WAS AN UNACCEPTABLE POSITION. THE FEELING IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS THAT THESE BERLIN ISSUES WILL REMAIN ON ICE FOR SOME TIME TO COME, PROBABLY UNTIL THE SHAPE OF SCHMIDT'S OSTPOLITIK BECOMES MUCH CLEARER.

5. ANOTHER SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT A SENIOR SOVIET DIPLOMAT IN BONN SAID RECENTLY FALIN IS DEPARTING IN CONFIDENTIAL

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EARLY SUMMER FOR LEAVE IN THE USSR AND MAY WELL NOT RETURN TO BONN. THE SOVIET SOURCE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT FALIN'S SUCCESSOR WOULD BE BONDARENKO, CHIEF OF THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY'S THIRD EUROPEAN DIVISION. HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATURE, TREATY VIOLATION, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN09787
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740162-0336
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740630/aaaaayzg.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: BONN 9735
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <18 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE SOVIET REACTION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY IN WEST BERLIN
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GE, WB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005